

Out & About



THEME:

Endangered Species

UPCOMING THEMES:

SPRING:

Managing to Minimize Wildlife Disturbance

SUMMER:

Cultural Resources

Prescribed Burn Demands Prescribed Outreach

Preventing fires on the ground and in the news

BY MIRIAM MORRILL AND JIM NICKLES

MIRIAM MORRILL/USFWS



A new partnership at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office demonstrates how everyone benefits when experts in communications work hand-in-hand with biologists in the Endangered Species Program.

Through a rigorous schedule of formal and informal meetings and workshops over the last several months, the External Affairs and Endangered Species programs have been working together to inform the public about a draft recovery plan for several imperiled species found in the hills east of San Francisco Bay.

As a result, a recovery plan we feared might provoke widespread controversy because of its endorsement of prescribed fires, has instead become a positive news story. By dealing upfront with the potentially difficult issue of fire, our draft recovery plan has won widespread support among key local stakeholders, including fire officials and East Bay Regional Park managers.

“We can’t recover these species without public support and the help of numerous partners,” said Harry McQuillen, chief of the Recovery Branch in the

Sacramento Office’s Endangered Species Program. “We have those partners now because we were willing to go out and meet with folks, answer their questions, and listen to their concerns. That bodes well for the recovery of these species.”

The Draft Recovery Plan for Chaparral and Scrub Community Species East of San Francisco Bay is aimed at recovering two federally listed species, the Alameda whip-snake and the pallid manzanita, and four species of concern — the Contra Costa manzanita, Mount Diablo bird’s-beak, Mount Diablo buckwheat, and Berkeley kangaroo rat. All of these species depend on chaparral and coastal scrub, signature California landscapes that are imperiled by urbanization, invasive species, and other threats.

But in a region where hundreds of homes were lost in the 1991 East Bay hills fire, the issue we thought might provoke the most controversy was fire. In addition to other methods for controlling non-native vegetation, the draft plan calls for examining the feasibility and safety of selective controlled burns in certain areas because the chaparral ecosystem and many of its

species benefit from occasional low-intensity fires.

In crafting our outreach effort, we focused on developing partnerships and alleviating public concerns about controlled burns and other habitat restoration work. Fortunately, local fire officials and other potential partners had joined in their own regional effort to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

We learned that many of the draft recovery plan’s goals were compatible with the goals of local “firesafe” councils. These included selective thinning of non-native vegetation that is often flammable and detrimental to the Alameda whipsnake.

Connecting with this existing fire management effort helped us reach a new level of communication and win new recovery program partners.

Even before we released the draft recovery plan in April 2003, we met with numerous groups in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to present our recovery goals and request their help. We developed many outreach



KAREN SWAIM

FAST FACTS

- 1,246 species nationwide are federally listed as threatened or endangered. The Pacific Region has lead responsibilities for 645 (52 percent) of these species. The listing process includes 90-day findings, 12-month findings, emergency listings, proposed listings, final listings, and proposed and final critical habitat designations.
- The Pacific Region has final recovery plans for 507 (79 percent) of the 645 listed species for which we are responsible.
- Nationwide, recovery plans have been prepared for 1,008 species; the Pacific Region has prepared about 50 percent of these plans.

In 2003, the Pacific Region:

- Processed 55 of the nation’s 77 endangered species listings.
- Completed 7,384 informal consultations. This optional process allows the applicant and agency responsible determine whether formal consultation is needed.
- Completed 570 formal consultations. This is a mandatory process for proposed projects that may affect listed species that concludes with a biological opinion issued by the Service.
- Processed 7 of the 25 Habitat Conservation Plans completed nationwide.

INSIDE:

It’s All Happening at the Zoo	2
Wolf Duo Takes the Heat	3
Field Notable Stewart Reid	6
Modoc Sucker	7
Teaching Children, Saving Birds	8
Home on the Range	9
Managing Bull Trout	12

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Out&About

Out & About is published quarterly for Region 1 Fish & Wildlife Service employees.

Staff

Editor:
Jeanne Clark, Stone Lakes NWR
Design and Production:
Terrie Thompson,
Thompson Typographics, Inc.
Editorial Advisor:
Susan Saul, External Affairs

Submissions

We welcome your submissions to *Out & About*. Regular sections in the newsletter are:

Feature Articles
Case Studies
Outreach
Accomplishments
Trainings & Workshops
Announcements
Q & A
Letters to the Editor
Outreach Resources

Articles should be submitted by email, disk, or CD and run 150 to 500 words. Gear writing to newsletter style; avoid technical jargon. Photos welcome. Publication is not guaranteed, though every effort will be made to use submissions.

Submit Articles To

Jeanne Clark, Editor
Jeanne_Clark@fws.gov
Phone: 916/663-2517
Fax: 916/645-2839

For unsolicited articles, please contact editor for information about photo submission guidelines.

Submission Deadlines

Spring	February 1
Summer	April 1
Fall	July 1
Winter	October 1

Out & About has received U.S. Department of the Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service DI-550 approval.

It is the policy of the U.S. Department of the Interior to ensure that individuals are not denied employment opportunities or program delivery because of their race, color, age (40+), sex (gender), national origin, religion, physical or mental disability. Unlawful discrimination in any form is strictly prohibited by agency policies and should be reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service Region 1 Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights, 503/231-2081, 911 NE 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97232-4181.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

It's All Happening at the Zoo

Oregon Zoo interview highlights FWS partnership

BY NANCY POLLOT



The role of zoos in the conservation of species is becoming increasingly significant. Blair Csuti, conservation director for the Oregon Zoo, shares his zoo's perspective on partnering with the Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered species recovery. To read the full interview, go to http://oregon-fwo.fws.gov/InfEd/InfEd_Outreach/ZooInterview.htm.

Nancy Pollot: *How did your partnership with the FWS begin?*

Blair Csuti: In the past 15 years, more and more zoos have become active participants in field conservation projects. Our first project with the Service was to address the declining Oregon silverspot butterfly population at The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Cascade Head Reserve. We approached the FWS with the idea of supplementing the butterfly population to guard against extinction while TNC was completing the habitat restoration. This strategy was incorporated into the 1999 revised recovery plan. Last summer we provided 294 silverspot pupae to TNC for release at Cascade Head. Our willingness to help eventually led to involvement with other FWS recovery programs.

NP: *The FWS and Oregon Zoo are collaborating on seven projects in your Future for Wildlife Program. Can you describe some of the projects?*

BC: We've joined the head-starting program created by Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo to take western pond turtle hatchlings from sites in the Columbia River Gorge and raise them over the winter to a size large enough to escape predation by introduced bullfrogs.

Because of the rapid decline in wild populations, we experimented with raising surrogate Idaho-caught pygmy rabbits. When the situation in eastern Washington became critical the following year, we began captive propagation of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits.

We have been cultivating the threatened Kincaid's lupine in anticipation of working with the Service and partner institutions on the recovery of species native to Willamette Valley ecosystems. We're trying to raise Puget blue butterflies as a surrogate to the endangered Fender's blue butterfly.

We're discussing the possibility of doing some public education about the western snowy plover on the Oregon coast. We may also raise abandoned plover eggs at the zoo and then release the birds to the wild.

After careful consideration, the recovery team invited us to become the nation's fourth California condor captive propagation facility. We've just received our first California condors at our newly constructed Condor Creek Conservation Facility, where we plan to house 16 breeding pairs and double the annual number of chicks available for release to free-flying flocks.

NP: *What are the advantages of partnering with the Service?*

BC: The FWS is in a unique position to partner with zoos when it makes sense for successful recovery of rare and endangered species. Partnering with the FWS lends credibility to our conservation programs and can have practical benefits, such as funding and help with the federal permit process.

Partnering with the FWS lends credibility to our conservation programs and can have practical benefits, such as funding and help with the federal permit process.

NP: *Aside from the obvious benefits of bringing back numbers of species and helping to reestablish populations, are there outreach values to these programs, as well?*

BC: Zoos reach an enormous audience—more than attend all of the major sporting events in the United States. We try to make sure our exhibits carry some sort of conservation message. The FWS helped design some of the exhibit graphics in our Alaska Tundra exhibit. Our new Eagle Canyon exhibit focuses on the role of wild salmon in the biological, cultural, social, and economic aspects of Northwest ecosystems. We also provide opportunities for our staff and volunteers to become involved in conservation activities.

NP: *What is your long term vision for these collaborative efforts with the Service?*

BC: Some of the projects we're already involved in will continue for decades. Realistically, I'd guess that the Oregon Zoo will be involved with California condor recovery for a minimum of 10 to 20 years. We've already discussed the possibility of taking on a role in the recovery of other listed species. We can also act as a facilitator for other organizations that could play that role. Right now, the zoo is extending itself just to take on the conservation projects currently underway; however, we'll continue to explore additional opportunities when new resources become available. ●

Nancy Pollot is an information and education specialist at the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office.

Wolf Duo Takes the Heat

Conflict resolution moves wolf recovery forward

BY JENNY VALDIVIA

Most people who value their lives wouldn't want anything to do with wolf recovery in Idaho. Then there are people like Rick Williamson and Carter Niemeyer.

These two men think nothing of routinely driving several hundred miles a day in their dusty government trucks just to spend some time talking with a rancher who thinks a wolf killed his livestock. That they manage to leave on a good note is evidence of outreach at its best. Their 24/7 lifestyles—the direct result of working in the wolf program—are the reason that complaints to congressional offices are practically nonexistent.

"I do outreach every day and don't even think about it," said Williamson, wolf specialist for USDA Wildlife Services in Idaho. "If you're not talking to people, you're gonna get nowhere in a big hurry. I know all these guys personally. They may not like wolves or the government, but they trust me because I communicate with them. This is all about conflict resolution."

Contrary to the notion that wolf work is all fame, glory, and fun, Williamson and Niemeyer, the Service's wolf recovery coordinator for Idaho, spend their days being negotiators and referees to ranchers, environmentalists, and the public. Their office phones and cell phones ring constantly with questions, concerns, and complaints about wolves. Their mailboxes pile up with requests for meetings, invitations to speak to groups, requests to come out and look at dead livestock, pleas for contributions to scientific papers, even fan mail and hate mail. In a

twist of irony, however, they seem most respected by those who like wolves the least.

"Sometimes what people want is for someone to just hear them out," said Niemeyer. "You need to listen and be objective and understand where they are coming from when they tell you they just lost several thousand dollars worth of livestock to a couple of wolves. You can't fake being a listener. I think doing less talking and more listening has helped me bring folks to the middle and quit being so extreme."

One of the most notorious examples of conflict resolution in the wolf program was Niemeyer's difficult decision in

2001 to kill the entire Whitehawk wolf pack. Williamson had already removed a few members of the pack, but they continued to kill livestock. When Niemeyer made the decision to kill the rest of them, he got in a helicopter and flew up the East Fork Salmon River and carried out the executions himself. The action made front page news in Idaho, and stories ran in papers across the nation and in Europe. The action pleased no one — not Carter, not even the rancher.

"I wasn't going to ask anyone else to carry out that deed. We promised people when we reintroduced wolves that we would take out any that repeatedly killed livestock. We gave that pack a



WILDLIFE SERVICES/USDA

lot of chances to stop," Niemeyer said, referring to the many non-lethal methods that had failed to deter the wolves. "When I finally said 'enough is enough,' I wasn't going to make someone else pull the trigger. I had about 400 emails when I got back to the office. Many of them asked me how I could sleep at night. It was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do, but we kept our promise that we wouldn't allow wolves to kill livestock."

The recent presence of wolves in Idaho has meant much fodder for the press, but the species has also been a wildly successful recovery story. The packs are growing and dispersing

Carter Niemeyer, left, and Rick Williamson install a radio-activated guard box at an Idaho ranch. Non-lethal scare techniques can help stall conflicts between wolves and livestock, but nothing is better than paying ranchers a personal visit.



throughout most of Idaho and the Service may soon publish a proposal to delist them. However, the people who live in wolf country and lose livestock to them are eager to hang on to the Williamson/Niemeyer duo.

"Wolves can get along just fine without our help," said Niemeyer. "All we have to do is keep talking to people and see if we can get them to quit shooting wolves. On the other hand, that's probably why Rick and I will have jobs for a while." ●

Jenny Valdivia is a public affairs specialist in the External Affairs Office. Wolf photo by USFWS.

Good Biology Is Not Enough

Public hearings provide focused outreach opportunities

BY PATTI CARROLL



Whenever a species is proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires the FWS to hold at least one public hearing — if somebody requests one. So, receiving even a single letter of request sends a contingent of us off into the public arena to conduct a public hearing. “We” are the biologists and managers working on the issue, a hearing officer, some administrative support staff, and a public hearings specialist.

My FWS career as a public hearings specialist began in 1988 with the court-ordered listing of the northern spotted owl. In 1989, we held four very large public hearings in three states, which were virtually the public’s first exposure to the ESA and FWS staff on this issue. Media coverage and political scrutiny were intense. We faced heated emotions at the hearings, even outrage and threats. Among the media and public there were genuine misunderstandings and intentional misinformation, in part because we had been unable to perform adequate outreach before the hearings. The entire region had only one public affairs person in 1989 and most of the rest of us weren’t aware that outreach was a necessary tool, nor did we know how to make it happen.

Public hearings have one official purpose: receiving oral comments about the proposal into the official record. My part of making hearings successful is to meticulously plan and provide the space, equipment, security, court reporter, procedures, staffing, and trained hearings officer. After suffering a serious roasting by the media

and public over the spotted owl, we realized it was essential to do more than simply fulfill the requirements of the law. We needed to be proactive. As staff skilled in outreach was added, their savvy and presence became an essential part of the formula.

Fifteen years and nearly 200 public hearings have followed since the spotted owl hearings, and we’ve all learned a lot. Some of the major changes include:

- For high-interest issues, we schedule hearings proactively, without waiting for requests.
- We hold prehearing public meetings that provide interactive communication, including accurate information on the species, the law, our regulations, and possible effects of the proposed action.
- We provide carefully crafted explanations of the proposed action to elected officials prior to the Federal Register notice and to agencies, interest groups, the media, and interested parties immediately upon the notice of a proposal.
- We prepare displays and concise, easy to understand handout information about the ESA, the species, our regulations, and other FWS information.
- We use the hearings as an opportunity for more outreach. At an information area right outside the hearing room, we hand out written materials and display maps, provide photos and videos of the species and/or its habitat, and have knowledgeable staff available for informal discussion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

RESOURCES

Kid’s Activity Web Site

The theme is Exploring and Discovering Nature at <http://columbiariver.fws.gov/education.htm>, an FWS web site that includes word scrambles, crossword puzzles, and more. Amphibians, reptiles, fish, lamprey, insects, macroinvertebrates, gray wolf, and bull trout are highlighted.

Book Roundup

Order the following books at:

Dog-Eared Publications, 1-888-364-3277, www.dog-eared.com, Acorn Naturalists, 1-800-422-8886, www.acornnaturalists.com, or from your favorite book store:

Ancient Forests – Discovering Nature: The ecology of old growth forests is explored through games, quizzes, mobiles, mazes and maps, along with discussions of old growth controversies and presentations of alternative solutions. Ages 8-13.

Discovering Salmon – A Learning and Activity Book: This book explores the health of ecological and human communities, and the economic significance of salmon. Ages 7-12.

Discovering Wolves: Cross-disciplinary activities include how to track wolves, study of wolf pack behavior, solve a barnyard mystery, learn predator/prey relationships, and survive through a season as a wolf. Ages 5-11.

Leapfrogging Through Wetlands: Discover the world of sedges, rushes, ducks, and frogs by becoming wetland detectives. Travel through a wetland maze or fly with migrating waterfowl. Ages 6-12.

Discovering Marine Mammals: Stickers, activities, and facts about whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, sea lions, sea otters, and manatees. Ages 6-11.

How to Put On a Nature Festival

The latest version of “How to Organize a Birding or Nature Festival,” by Nancy Millar of the McAllen Conference and Visitor Bureau, is available at the American Birding Association web site at <http://www.americanbirding.org/programs/consfestmanual.htm>

Bring Lewis and Clark to Your Site

The just-completed Lewis and Clark education kit contains exciting activities for 4th and 5th graders, including a mapping activity, native/non-native animal and plant species activity, examples of equipment and articles that Lewis and Clark took on their journey, trade items, and more. Contact Donna Allard at 360/696-7605.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD DECLERCK/DOI



HCPs and species listings can generate opposition. While public meetings are formal, they can include informal public meetings where dialogue is encouraged.

Murrelets, Spotted Owls, and Tribal Canoe

Video helps save endangered species

BY DOUG ZIMMER



USFWS



BRET DODD/USFWS

The Region 1 Broadcast Media Center filmed creation of tribal canoe from an old growth cedar.

When the people of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe of northwestern Washington decided to build a traditional seagoing canoe in 2000, they needed an old growth cedar tree of immense size, meeting particular structural requirements. In times past, tribal canoe builders went to the forest, found a suitable tree and, after appropriate ceremonies, created a canoe that would help feed their people and preserve their cultural identity and traditions.

But today, suitable canoe trees are rare. As important as mammoth cedars are to the building of a traditional canoe, they are equally vital to marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls, both species listed under the ESA. The trees are protected and the path to their harvest can be complicated.

When the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe found the tree they wanted for a canoe and contacted the Service's Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (WWO), they learned that the desired tree was in a vital nesting reserve for two endangered species. Service biologists and Tribal representatives faced conflicting needs and mandates: one

group needed the tree in the forest, the other wanted it in the ocean.

Biologists from the Tribe, WWO, and Olympic National Forest searched the forest for another tree. Tribal members found one they felt might meet the needs of the canoe carvers without compromising the habitat needs of the listed species, but negotiations over which tree to use remained at an impasse. Then Tribal council members expressed an interest in creating a record for future generations of the creation of the canoe, from forest to sea, including accompanying ceremonies. Sensing an opportunity, a member of the WWO negotiating team contacted the Western Washington Broadcast Media Center (BMC).

Created in 1995 to provide broadcast quality video production support to the Pacific Region, the BMC uses broadcast-quality digital equipment to record and edit video. Footage from the BMC has appeared on all major television networks in the United States and has helped the public understand species listing actions, celebrate the hatching of the first wild California condor chicks in decades, watch biologists teach

Consider BMC for Your Video Project

- Broadcast quality digital equipment and editing services, including underwater equipment.
- Competitive rate of \$567 per day, shooting or editing, plus airfare and other transportation costs. Most projects can be completed in a few days.
- Free consultation, from budgeting to distribution.
- Ready to roll in hours in emergencies.
- Experienced FWS staff, with 15 years of network, documentary, and educational video production experience.
- Easy to contract, since BMC is within the Service and no competitive bids are required. Just call 360/753-4370 with a project and a cost code.
- Free video storage of your originals in BMC's climate-controlled secure storage facility for future use.
- Access to the BMC video library, which may include images you need for your project.

whooping cranes to migrate, identify bull trout, and learn about other conservation partnerships. BMC staff quickly agreed that they could record the harvest of the tree, the ceremonies, and other activities. They could also edit the raw video, or the Tribe could do their own editing and production. The idea proved to be a tie-breaker and the second tree was selected.

The tree is now a canoe that has carried representatives of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to several Tribal canoe events. BMC documented the entire creation process, just as the Tribe wished. Someday the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe hopes to edit the video into a documentary covering the birth of their new canoe and what it has meant to their people. When they do, the BMC stands ready to help again. ●

Doug Zimmer is an information and education specialist in the Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office.



DAVID LEDIG/USFWS

Videographer Bret Dodd.

Meet Field Notable Stewart Reid

Landowner outreach moves Modoc sucker recovery forward

BY JEANNE CLARK



Fish biologist Stewart Reid and a landowner were sitting on a bridge, looking into a small northern California creek. This private stream looked extremely promising as Modoc sucker habitat, but the landowner was nervous about endangered species on his property. Reid could envision himself snorkeling the creek and finding the fish he suspected were there. He would continue to see the landowner. Permission would come in time. He had become an old hand at waiting and building relationships with people who are now crucial partners in native fish conservation.

At 13, when Reid walked into Steinhart Aquarium looking for a part-time job, he knew he wanted to work with fish. “Right then I knew my goal in life was to stay wet,” says Reid. He has done that, donning a mask and snorkel professionally to collect and study fish in South America, Belize, Hawaii, and Puget Sound.

Reid has also kept his wetsuit in use in the sometimes water-starved creeks of Modoc County during his past six years at the Klamath Fish and Wildlife Office. He has a lead role in Modoc sucker recovery and keeps his finger on the pulse of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Reid covers four basins in southern Oregon and northern California. It’s a rural environment where folks feel cautious about the federal government. “To move Modoc sucker recovery forward,” observed Reid, “I needed to get on privately-owned land. And to do this, I needed to be invited... to be seen as someone working with, not against, local landowners.”



HOLLI LEILANI HANALEI

If he’s not wet and studying fish, Reid is wearing them.

“This is a face to face community,” says Reid, who shuns using the phone to make contacts. He visits with people at the gas station or store, or while they’re stringing fence in a pasture. “Sometimes,” comments Reid, “they’ll pass me on a road and stop because they’re curious about this guy they see bent over, with his head under water.”

After a few years of meeting people on their turf and talking about Modoc sucker recovery, they started to listen. “They see me on the same land that sustains them, out at dawn, back after dark, in every kind of weather, just like they are,” says Reid.

For Reid, this is the foundation. “Once people see that you are out there working, not snooping, they get used to you.” Reid seizes opportunities to interact with local ranchers and landowners. Very few could recognize a Modoc sucker or even care about this little fish. “I get people involved by listening, offering help, and showing them ways that recovery and conservation can fit into their lives.”

For example, as he and the rancher sat visiting on the bridge, Reid learned that the rancher had a strong stewardship ethic, but philosophically believed that stewardship was the local community’s responsibility, not the federal government’s. “If I survey this stream,” Reid told the rancher, “we will know if they are here, and if they are, that moves us one step closer toward recovery and getting them delisted. Then the community can take over and we both win.”

Reid’s outreach-heavy approach has yielded a bonanza of cooperation and respect. His access allows him to find new populations, monitor historical sites that have been off limits, and gain greater understanding of the biology of native species to aid in their conservation. “At the time of listing there were only a couple of known populations of Modoc suckers,” says Reid. “Now we’ve even found them in the Goose Lake Basin. We are slowly showing the community that we are trying... that our science and word can be trusted.”

Reid admits that when most people think of outreach, it’s easy to envision the “props” — the Powerpoint shows, brochures, etc. “I feel a little intimidated by all that. For me, muddy boots or a mug of coffee at the diner are the cheapest and most effective outreach tools available.”

Jeanne Clark is editor of Out & About.



TODD FORBES/BLM

Landowners often meet Reid in his outdoor office, geared up in a wetsuit to cope with the cold water, his sampling net in hand.

Modoc Sucker Recovery

Progress relies on getting out and about

BY STEWART REID

The Modoc sucker is a small fish living in small streams on the rugged, volcanic landscape of northeastern California and southern Oregon. One of the little sucker's main claims to fame is that it is the only fish in the Pit River system protected by the Endangered Species Act, a law that many private landowners in this part of the country see as a major threat to their lands and livelihoods. Clearly, this is a fish that really needs a good P.R. agent.

Extensive field surveys have been a major component in the Modoc sucker recovery program. We have discovered new populations, explored the genetic interactions between species, and monitored habitat conditions. However, all this time spent in the field has given us something equally important — it has put us in frequent contact with the landowners, managers, and community. These are the people who will be the foundation for successful conservation of the Modoc sucker into the future.

As a fish biologist I record in my field book where I go, what streams I survey, and what I observe when I slip below the water's surface or clamber up a rocky, unexplored ravine looking for new populations of fish. That's how I see myself, so I'm always surprised when I read back through my notes and see how much of my field time is actually

spent visiting with people to advance recovery goals.

A typical field day might read: "Ran into county commissioner so and so at breakfast; let her know that I might have found Modoc suckers in her district and not to worry. Stopped by Forest Service for quick conversation with local biologist; quick coordination on a restoration project. Headed out to a creek to pick up data loggers; stopped in at ranch for coffee and went over significance of temperature fluctuations. After taking a quick dip in a stream to check spawning condition of suckers, a neighboring landowner stopped to visit as I emerged in wetsuit; had a long conversation over the fence about his muskrat problems and what we could do about it. Pulled in for shake at burger shop; owner also has half a mile of stream and wanted to hear results of last week's survey. Headed over to another creek to check on tagged suckers; saw landowner on the way and stopped to bring him up-to-date regarding tagging and finding funding to restore his upper stream pasture. Slipped back in my wetsuit until after dark; found the tagged suckers."

Out here, where over half the stream habitat is on private lands, I can't recover the Modoc sucker from the office. Not only do I have to get underwater to understand

the fish, but I have to get out into the community to understand the people. It seems too simple, but direct personal interaction and plain old common courtesy seem to be the foundations of my outreach program.

It is hard to quantify the benefits of conversation, but at the end of the day I know I've made progress. The county commissioner is working with, not against, me. The national forest's stream restoration project is moving forward. A pair of ranchers have learned how to evaluate stream temperatures and I better understand their grazing management. It looks like we'll

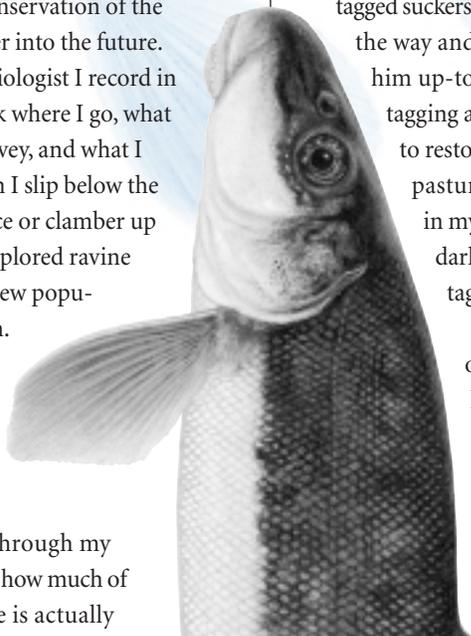
Landowner, managers, and the community will play a vital role in restoring Modoc sucker populations.

We have discovered new populations, explored the genetic interactions between species, and monitored habitat conditions.

get a new project to address the stream-bank damage by the muskrats. Four separate landowners have continued their commitment as stewards of Modoc sucker streams. And I've even gotten some fieldwork done.

On the way home, I slow to keep the dust down and honk into the darkness at the well-lit ranch house; message sent — it's been a long day and thanks for your help. ●

Stewart Reid is a fishery biologist at the Klamath Fish and Wildlife Office. Fish illustration by Joe Tomelleri.



PAUL CHAPPELL/DFG

Teaching Children, Saving Birds

Children experience recovery partnership firsthand

BY ALAN LIEBERMAN

“If you plan for a year, plant kalo. If you plan for ten years, plant koa. If you plan for 100 years, teach the children.”

HAWAIIAN PROVERB

Children visiting the Keakealani Outdoor Education Center learn about natural history and the importance of saving endangered species and habitat.



This Hawaiian proverb’s wisdom is expressed in many languages, but they all speak to the same hope: if you want to make the world a better place, begin by teaching children. In Hawaii — a state of unparalleled species richness that is also burdened by species extinction and endangerment — this legacy is vital.

In 1993, a conservation partnership was formed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and The Peregrine Fund, and later joined by the Zoological Society of San Diego. Its goal was to establish self-sustaining captive populations of the most endangered of Hawaii’s remaining species of honeycreepers, thrushes, and crows as a hedge

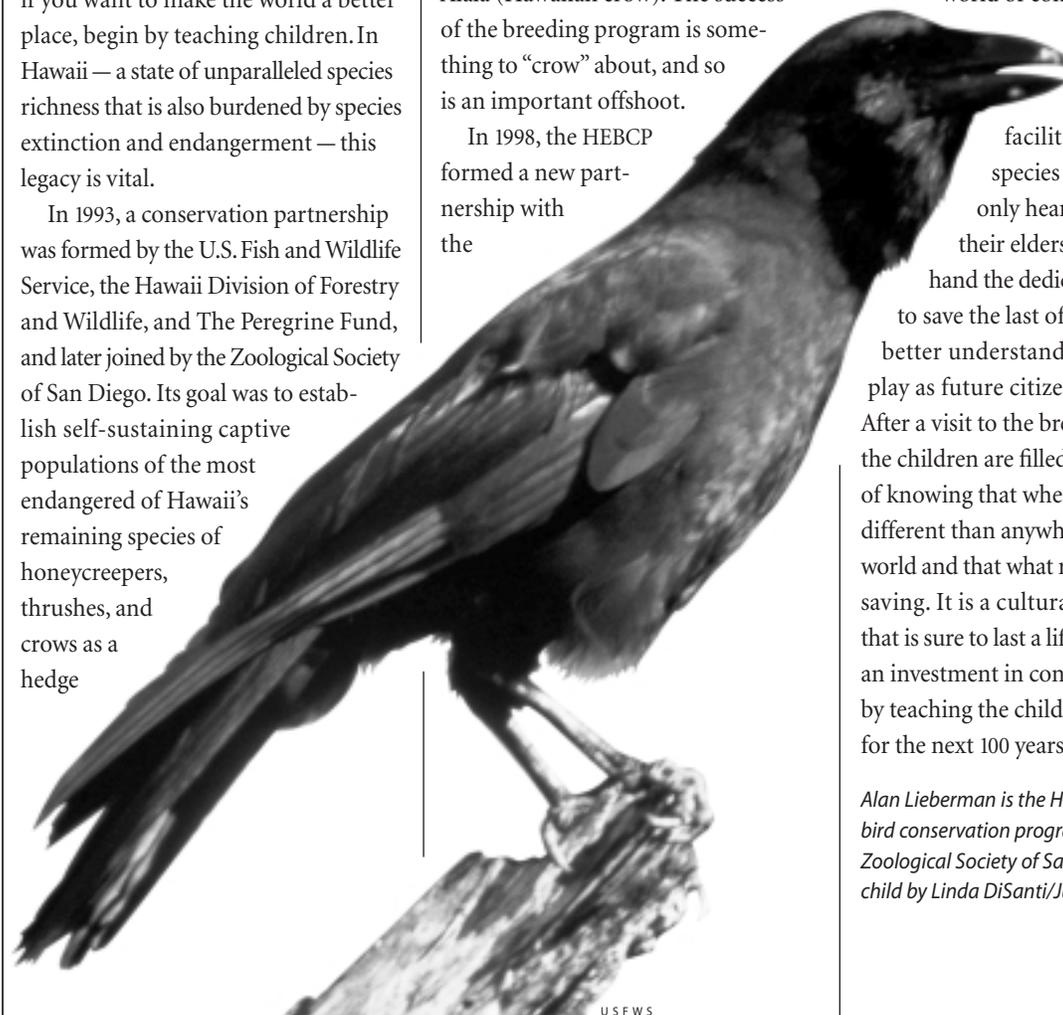
against extinction and as genetic reservoirs for their eventual reintroduction. The partnership, now called the Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program (HEBCP), operates the Keauhou and Maui Bird Conservation Centers and has established an excellent record of captive propagation. The program breeds and rears several species of honeycreepers, such as the Maui parrotbill, the Hawaii ‘Akepa and Creeper, and the Palila, as well as the Puaiohi (small Kauai thrush) and the ‘Alala (Hawaiian crow). The success of the breeding program is something to “crow” about, and so is an important offshoot.

In 1998, the HEBCP formed a new partnership with the

Keakealani Outdoor Education Center (KOEK). The KOEK is a unique environmental education program sponsored by the Hawaii Department of Education, which hosts every sixth grade student on the island of Hawaii for a three day/ two night stay in the remote rainforests near the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Every sixth grader eagerly looks forward to this adventure where they hike, learn about Hawaii’s natural history, visit the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, and open their eyes to the world of conservation.

Over 10,000 children have now visited the facilities, seeing bird species they may have only heard about from their elders. They see first hand the dedication and effort to save the last of the last, and better understand the role they play as future citizens of Hawaii. After a visit to the breeding centers, the children are filled with the pride of knowing that where they live is different than anywhere else in the world and that what remains is worth saving. It is a cultural experience that is sure to last a lifetime. It is also an investment in conservation, for by teaching the children, we can plan for the next 100 years. ●

Alan Lieberman is the Hawaii endangered bird conservation program director at the Zoological Society of San Diego. Photo of child by Linda DiSanti/Julie Williams.



USFWS

Home on the Range

Outreach gains ground for imperiled ground squirrel

BY MEGGAN LAXALT MACKAY

“Home, home on the range, Where the deer and the ground squirrels play...”

Ground squirrels?? Well, okay, it works in Idaho... The southern Idaho ground squirrel inhabits the state’s western shrub-steppe range, an ecosystem that is quickly becoming fragmented due to fire, non-native plant invasion, and human encroachment. The squirrels are also further threatened by people who sometimes illegally shoot them for sport.

From an estimate of 40,000 in the mid-1900s, southern Idaho ground squirrels have dwindled to fewer than 500, concentrated in an 810-square-mile area in Idaho’s Weiser River Basin. They are considered a federal candidate species and a state species of concern, and their relative, the threatened northern Idaho ground squirrel, is even more imperiled.

Luckily for the southern species, biologists, researchers, ranchers, outreach specialists, and zoo administrators have developed several unique conservation efforts that are making a difference.

First, the Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and Soulen Livestock Company, a large family-owned sheep and cattle company near Weiser, Idaho, worked out a Conservation Agreement for the squirrels. The squirrels rely heavily upon remote sagebrush and bunchgrass range during the four-month period they are above ground. In this short time, seeds and vegetation provide enough energy and body fat for the squirrels to survive their eight month underground hibernation. The Soulen’s ranch included such habitat, so the agreement included the translocation of over two hundred southern Idaho ground squirrels to their property, in the hopes of avoiding listing.

Many of the transplanted squirrels came from the local golf course. “As you can imagine,” says Margaret Soulen, partner and third generation rancher, “we became the object of a lot of good-natured jokes about removing ground squirrels from the golf course and letting them roam free on our ranch. We sometimes refer to the effort as ‘Caddyshack meets Bonanza.’” In a serious vein, she adds, “My family... shares a love of wildlife and the out-of-doors. We want to see all the wildlife for which we have some responsibility do well through the way we run our operation.”

As word traveled about attempts to conserve the southern Idaho ground squirrel, local ranchers began contacting the Service to post “No Shoot” signs to discourage illegal squirrel shooting. The IDFG also included a similar message in its most recent upland game hunter regulations.

Others offered to help as the Service, IDFG, researchers, and local ranchers stepped up outreach efforts, which included magazine articles, news stories, and hunter education. The University of Idaho began to conduct genetic studies of the squirrels. Albertson College of Idaho contributed expertise and partnered with the

Service and BLM to publish a ground squirrel field guide. Idaho Public Television spent two days filming squirrel translocation on the Soulen Ranch and the golf course.

After receiving a state wildlife grant, Zoo Boise also stepped forward, offering to build a research facility for southern Idaho ground squirrels. It features ground squirrels translocated from the Weiser Basin. Says Zoo Boise Executive Director Steve Burns, “This exhibit not only helps further research, but it also helps further public education. We are happy to be partners in the effort.”

Grants from the Regional Office and Boise Cascade Corporation will help Zoo Boise double the size of its ground squirrel research facility.

Partnerships and outreach are a vital part of the process to return the southern Idaho ground squirrel to its native home on the range.

And unique ground squirrel conservation outreach keeps snowballing. The zoo has now received funding from the Regional Office and Boise Cascade Corporation to double the size of the squirrel research facility and create new interpretive exhibits to reach the more than 200,000 annual zoo visitors.

It’s easy to think of species conservation as a biological effort. In Idaho, partnerships and outreach are a vital part of this process to return the southern Idaho ground squirrel to its native home on the range. Feel free to contact us at 280/378-5796, if you’d like a copy of the field guide, *Ground-dwelling Squirrels of the Pacific Northwest*. ●

Meggan Laxalt Mackey is an information and education specialist at the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office.



USFWS



Southern Idaho ground squirrel in sagebrush habitat.

Prescribed Burn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

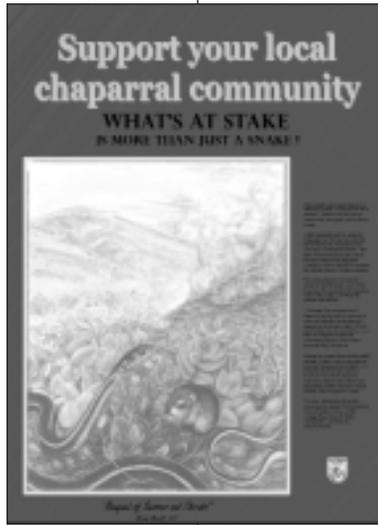


ILLUSTRATION BY MIRIAM MORRILL

Poster helps to advance outreach program in many fire-prone East Bay communities.

products, including news releases, brochures, and posters, and distributed them to fire officials, land managers, and other stakeholders.

When it was time to release the draft recovery plan, these early outreach efforts paid off. The plan was already widely supported at the

local level; the workshops and public hearings we conducted were uneventful and produced uniformly favorable coverage in several major newspapers.

This early outreach effort has been so successful that our recovery partners have become our ambassadors. During the October 2003 National FireWise

When it was time to release the plan, these early outreach efforts paid off.

Workshop, hosted by the Diablo Firesafe Council and Hills Emergency Forum, participants cited our draft chaparral plan as a success story in community planning and partnerships.

To be successful, most of our recovery efforts require partnerships and community planning. We believe our outreach partnership for this draft recovery plan is also a good example of Interior Secretary Gale Norton's four C's—an effort to cooperate, coordinate and communicate in effective ways for conservation of natural resources. ●

Miriam Morrill was a fish and wildlife biologist and Jim Nickles is a supervisory information and education specialist in the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.

Announcements

O&A Gets a New Look

In celebration of its 10 year anniversary, your Pacific Region outreach newsletter, *Out & About*, has a new look. The new design puts a fresh, modern face on the newsletter, improves readability, and better uses the available space. We hope these changes will encourage you to read and contribute to the newsletter. Let us know what you think by contacting the editor at Jeanne_Clark@fws.gov.

Hakalau Forest a Winner

Good planning, volunteer assistance, and many partnerships at Hakalau Forest NWR yielded an unbeatable combination in the Natural Areas Association's (NAA) 2003 Resource Stewardship Award competition.

The Hilo, Hawaii refuge was selected from nominees across the nation and honored for its innovations and distinguished achievements in natural resource conservation.

NAA Awards Committee spokesman J. Michael Scott praised the refuge for its "record of accomplishment in constructing ungulate free enclosures, removal of exotic plants, and development of a highly effective group of volunteers... as a model of accomplishment and effectiveness for other natural area managers." Dozens of partner groups and individual volunteers assist with tree propagation, planting, weed control, and other restoration activities.

Veteran Outreach

The Pacific Region is looking in its own backyard to add talent to the FWS team. The 100-plus military installations scattered throughout the region are excellent sources for diverse applicants who possess the journey-level, technical, wage grade, professional and supervisory skills needed to do everything from run tractors and high-tech

computer programs to handle field and supervisory work.

The Division of Diversity and Civil Rights provides information on Service employment opportunities via listservs, fax broadcasts, and various Department of Defense web sites to each military transition office, military veterans, and others, to promote FWS employment opportunities.

The Diversity Office has also established partnerships with local Veterans Administration offices to recruit disabled veterans. The nation's talented defenders can often become productive in less time, and at less cost, than other applicants. Interested? Please give Jerry Wells a call at 503/736-4789.

Teaming Up at Career Fair

If you staffed three separate FWS tables at a university career fair would you confuse the students? The answer was provided on November 6 at the University of California, Davis. The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, regional Diversity Office, and Alaska Refuges all planned to attend to recruit job applicants. The three offices discussed the dilemma and decided it was best to locate all three tables side-by-side. It worked.

The three programs each exhibited displays, offering a much broader view of the Service than if the exhibits had been separate. The displays and enthusiastic staffers worked together to convey to students that the FWS is a great place to work, offering a diversity of employment opportunities. At the end of a successful day of recruiting, an FWS staffer observed a BLM exhibit across the room and found himself wondering, "Next year, should we co-locate and create one-stop shopping?" ●

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

4-8

San Diego Bird Festival

WHERE: San Diego, CA
 CONTACT: Imperial Beach
 Chamber of Commerce
 619/516-0139
www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org

13-15

Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference/Festival

WHERE: Klamath Falls, OR
 CONTACT: Klamath County
 Dept. of Tourism
 800/445-6728
www.eaglecon.org

15

Benefit Concert Klamath Basin Birding Trail

WHERE: Klamath Falls, OR
 CONTACT: Cindy Deas
 541/545-6985
www.klamathbirdingtrails.com

14-16

Salton Sea International Bird Festival

WHERE: Imperial, CA
 CONTACT: 760/344-5FLY
 tbarrett@quix.net

MARCH

13

Wild on Wetlands

WHERE: Los Banos, CA
 CONTACT: 209/826-5188 or
 800/336-6354
www.losbanos.com

14

National Wildlife Refuge System Birthday

WHERE: Nationwide
 REGIONAL CONTACT: Susan Saul
 503/872-2728

26-28

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

WHERE: Othello, WA
 CONTACT: Othello Conservation District
 509/488-2802 ext.100

26-28

Aleutian Goose Festival

WHERE: Crescent City, CA
 CONTACT: 800/343-8300
www.aleutiangoosefestival.org

APRIL

2-4

John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival

WHERE: Burns, OR
 CONTACT: Harney County
 Chamber of Commerce
 541/573-2636
www.harneycounty.com

16-19

Godwit Days

WHERE: Arcata, CA
 CONTACT: 800/908-WING
www.godwitdays.com

30
THROUGH
MAY 2**Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival**

WHERE: Hoquiam, WA
 CONTACT: Sheila McCartan
 360/753-9467

Good Biology CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Some people use the words “public hearing” and “public meeting” interchangeably, but the two have very distinct purposes. Public information meetings are similar to hearings in that both are held only during an open comment period and written comments can be submitted; however, a public hearing requires a court reporter to record verbatim oral comments. The hearing’s formal, controlled format does not allow questions during testimony – which is why we set up information areas outside of the hearing room. Public information meetings are not required as part of the hearing process, but they’re always a great outreach tool. There is no court reporter at these gatherings and oral comments cannot be taken.

The spotted owl controversy taught us a lot about the difference between fulfilling our legal obligations and orchestrating an outreach success. We don’t just reserve the room, show up to take comments, and consider our obligation done. We now use the hearing process to improve community relations, offer opportunities to expand the public’s understanding of the issue, and hopefully, improve the factual basis and quality of the public’s comments at the hearing. ●

Patti Carroll is a public hearings specialist in the Division of Listing and Candidate Conservation.

Bull Trout Outreach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

recovery for a species that ranges as widely as bull trout.

That’s the exciting part.

The agony came from the glitches that occurred: Links that didn’t work, files too large for people to open, spelling errors we hadn’t noticed, and, horror of horrors, posting the wrong version of the news release. Scott Eckert and Ben Fell, our regional web site gurus, remained cool as they spent many grueling hours straightening it out.

The whole outreach effort was an amazing feat of teamwork that was months in the making. It began with field office biologists who developed the draft recovery chapters and critical habitat proposals, a process that alone took nearly three years. Even as they fine tuned their own products, they supplied invaluable edits and suggestions as we developed the outreach materials. The regional Ecological Services staff never complained about answering our endless questions and the regional GIS staff never hesitated to revise the maps one more time.

When the glitches were finally fixed, we all agreed that this is the way to do large-scale outreach. Since the



announcement was made a year ago, we have used the web site to provide updates as events have occurred. And we’ll continue to do this as the next chapters of bull trout critical habitat and recovery unfold.

We also learned a lot along the way, from the best way to post things for downloading to the need for a quality control manager to ensure that the links keep working and that the web site is up to date. But our biggest lesson of all was timing. Every step of the process — from writing the documents and developing the maps to getting Washington Office approval and posting items on the web — took far longer than we had expected. We also understand that this was our first effort and that with better inreach, our outreach will improve. Pretty soon, we won’t be using that old fax machine anymore. ●

Joan Jewett is the chief of public affairs in the External Affairs Office. Photos courtesy Rocky Mountain Research Station/USFS.

Managing Bull Trout Outreach

Web site provides the tool for notifying the public

BY JOAN JEWETT



WILLIAM H. MULLINS



Web site gave everyone easy and timely access to information about the critical habitat proposal.

Recently, while reviewing the bull trout pages of the Pacific Regional Office's web site, I began reliving the excitement and the agony of November 2002, when the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed critical habitat for bull trout and released parts of our draft recovery plan. Preparing for that announcement was an awesome undertaking, unlike anything the regional Public Affairs Office had ever done.

Our use of the regional web site to distribute information is what made the announcement so different. Through the miracle of the Internet, we were

able to provide outreach to hundreds of media outlets, Congress, local officials, and the public in six states — all at the same time. This outreach consisted of a news release, a Q&A sheet, photos, fact sheets, the Federal Register critical habitat notice, the draft recovery plan, a public meeting schedule, and detailed interactive maps for 23 recovery units and more than 18,000 miles of proposed critical habitat. Imagine how many hours this would have taken to fax, as we had done in the past. And we didn't receive any complaints from reporters who hadn't received their materials on time.

By the time of the news teleconference, most of the materials had been posted for a couple hours, enabling reporters to review them so they could ask informed questions. The web site also allowed the public to email their comments.

The Internet has truly revolutionized the way we do media announcements and outreach. Never before had we been able to disseminate so much information, so quickly, to so many people. The benefits multiplied exponentially when it came to explaining something as complicated as critical habitat and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

WHAT'S NEW?

Friend-Building Workshops: Friends Workshops will take place in Portland, from January 30 to February 1, 2004, and in Sacramento, from February 20 to 22. Help your Friends take advantage of these opportunities to build skills and network with other Friends groups. For information, contact Marguerite Hills at 503/872-2739.

Banking on Nature 2002 Provides Updated Data: Fifteen refuges were studied in detail to demonstrate that the more than 35.5 million visits to the nation's 542 refuges fueled more than \$809 million in sales of recreation equipment, food, lodging, transportation, and other expenditures in 2002. *Banking on Nature 2002: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation* is available for download at http://refuges.fws.gov/policy_Makers/pdfs/BankingOnNature2002_101403.pdf.

Scaling Up in March: Fisheries' strategic plan, *Scaling Up—Conserving America's Fisheries*, is due out in March 2004, complete with media interviews, Hill visits, local events, and other outreach. Regional events will run from April until October and will include local congressional field trips, open houses, and more. For information about this national plan, call Amy Gaskill at 503/231-6874.

Story of Rachel Carson Memo Revealed: The current issue of *Women in Natural Resources* magazine recounts

the odyssey of a memo written by Rachel Carson in 1951, when she was a Fish and Wildlife Service employee, that has finally found its way home to the Service's history archives at NCTC. *Forlorn Memo, Last Vestige of Rachel Carson's Legacy, Completes a 30-year Odyssey* by David Klinger, former Pacific Region ARD-External Affairs, is available online at <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/winr/klinger.htm>.

Wild Things 2003: Habitat is Home Sweet Home: The video tape and educator's guide for this year's annual interactive live satellite broadcast to classrooms across the country are now available. Contact Deborah McCrensky at 703/358-2386 for copies. Use them to encourage teachers to sign up for the October 2004 broadcast by visiting www.wildthingsfws.org.

Dawn Grafe Nominated for Award: Dawn Grafe, refuge operations specialist at the Oregon Coast NWR, was the Pacific Region's nominee for the 2003 "Sense of Wonder" award. This Service award is presented each year at the National Interpreters Workshop.

Refuge Brochure a Winner: The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR station brochure designed by VSC's Matt Hasti recently won second place at the National Association for Interpretation's annual international award competition. FWS talent runs deep: two years ago the Turnbull NWR brochure designed by VSC's Glenda Franich was similarly honored.

Latest from the Web Publishing Council: The FWS Web Publishing Council has published the final version of the four foundation documents on the Service's intranet at http://sii.fws.gov/guide_docs/guiding.html. Check with Scott Eckert, your regional web manager, for details.